Vulnerability of Assam to earthquake

3040. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam is located in the maximum earthquake risk zone in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite the State being vulnerable to violent earthquake eruptions, the state of disaster preparedness is slow and tardy;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to develop a foolproof disaster management system to enable the State of Assam and more particularly the Guwahati region to face natural calamities like earthquake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The State of Assam falls in Seismic Zone-V, which is considered the maximum earthquake risk zone in the country.

(c) to (e) The various measures initiated by the Government of Assam to strengthen the Disaster Management System include updating of municipal bye-laws at district level to incorporate the required provisions of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) codes constitutional of Hazard Safety Cell under the Chief Engineer, PWD (Buildings) to review the structural and architectural designs of all RCC, steel and masonry buildings and the Cell will act as Consultant to the State Government for the vulnerability assessment and retrofitting of Government and lifeline buildings; and inclusion of Guwahati under the Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project taken up as a part of the Disaster Risk Management Programme. The Building Materials Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) has organized a workshop for the adoption of model building bye-laws, zoning regulations and development control regulations on 1st July, 2005 at Guwahati with State level technical experts. The State Government has identified three engineering colleges/institute for undertaking training of in-service engineers in earthquake resistant

building design and technology under the National Programme for Capacity Building of Engineers for Earthquake Risk Management. Awareness generation programmes have also been taken up for earthquake risk reduction. Steps have been initiated to include disaster management in school education and technical education.

Issue of visas to Chinese visitors

3041. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that procedure for issue of visas by the Government of India to Chinese visitors in India was very slow and tardy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that work visas are not issued to the Chinese people and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are considering any reforms in the procedure for issue of visas and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Govern nent have received any representation from the Chinese Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Different types of visas including 'Employment Visa' are issued to Chinese nationals strictly in accordance with the Visa Agreement signed between India and China in June, 2003.

(e) and (f) Such issues are discussed from time-to-time in accordance with existing inter-governmental agreements between India and China.